

**One Hundred Twenty Fifth Anniversary
First Congregational Church of Everett
Everett, Mass.**

United Church of Christ

1848

1973



*First Congregational Church
Everett - Massachusetts*

Rev. Robert Lee Stiles, Pastor

Mr. R.D. Toce, Organist & Choral Director

Mr. Thomas Greene, Custodian

Mrs. Doris Barnes, Secretary



FRANCIS W. SARGENT
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

April 23, 1973

TO THE PARISHONERS OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you the congratulations and best wishes of the Commonwealth on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Everett.

This is a time for reflection on past traditions and a time for renewed faith in the future. All of you who have given so much to your church and community recognize the strong moral foundation upon which our society is built, and you can take great pride in the leadership you provide for your community in the service of humanity. I know that you will continue to uphold this tradition and I extend my warm best wishes to you all.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis W. Sargent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

COMMEMORATING
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE YEARS
OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
for
GOD AND COMMUNITY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
EVERETT SQUARE
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 19 and MAY 20, 1973

125th ANNIVERSARY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The church in the Square with the town clock in its steeple has been a familiar Everett landmark for four generations of our citizens. The early history and growth of Everett's first church parallels the early history and growth of the city itself. The two have been closely identified.

In 1847 when our history began, the region in which we now live was still a part of the Town of Malden and known as the South District. Within a one-mile radius of the district schoolhouse (where the Central Fire Station now stands) the population was about 600. There was no place of worship here. Those disposed to church attendance travelled to Malden Center, Charlestown, Chelsea or Boston. It was Miss Joanna T. Oliver, a resident of Chelsea Street, who first became concerned about a region "so attractive by nature. . . becoming a moral and spiritual wasteland". With the help and encouragement of the Rev. Mr. McClure of the Malden Church she started a Sabbath School. The first class was held on the first Sunday of May, 1847, in the hall of the old schoolhouse.

The Sabbath School was a success from the beginning, with an increased attendance at each session. Noting this, certain of our citizens began to realize the need for a church in this area. A group of these citizens met and called on neighboring clergy for advice and guidance. A decision was made to hold Sunday services in the school hall on an experimental basis for six months. The Rev. Joseph A. Benton was called to "supply the pulpit" during that interval. It is in his fine Spencerian handwriting that this early history is recorded. (Rev. Benton later joined the Westward migration, settling finally in California where he became a well known journalist and started the first newspaper in the state of California. He is also recorded as one of those who organized California's first college.)

On March 8, 1848, believing that the experiment had been sufficiently tried, a Committee of Organization met at the home of Uriah Oakes with instructions to draw up Articles of Faith and to arrange for a meeting of the Council of Churches. This Council convened on March 16, 1848 with Dr. Edward Beecher as Moderator. The churches represented were Old South,

Mt. Vernon, Pine Street and Salem of Boston; First and Bethesda of Charlestown; Trinitarian of Malden; Winnisimmet of Chelsea. Having previously elected to worship "the Congregational way" our church was duly instituted as Winthrop Congregational Church. (Apparently it had been expected that the district would eventually become the Town of Winthrop). Our first Communion Service was held on June 4, 1848, with the Rev. F.T. Perkins of East Cambridge officiating.

The Rev. Mr. Benton continued as pastor for a year before leaving for the West aboard the "Edward Everett" which sailed around Cape Horn to reach California. In October 1849 the Rev. Francis G. Pratt was installed as first regular pastor of the church. During his nine-year ministry the land on which the church stands was purchased from the Whittemore family and erection of the church building began. The cornerstone was laid at a sunrise service attended by "a great concourse of people". The building was of early New England type architecture with straight walls and a tall spire (later removed for safety reasons) and painted white. It stood on the lot devoid of other buildings from Church Street to Norwood Street. It was subsequently enclosed by a white picket fence extending back to the Devens School area. The large open space at the back was used for tying up horses and carriages. Inside, a staircase on each side of the entrance led to the Sanctuary which contained stall-type white pews, mahogany trimmed, giving a seating capacity of 350. A straight balcony across the back of the Sanctuary held the choir and a pump organ. At that time it was customary for the congregation, when singing, to turn and face the balcony.

Dedication of the new church took place on December 8, 1852, and the first Sunday service was held on December 12th. The erection of this church was a gigantic task for the small community, most of whose people were comparatively poor. There were many financial difficulties. But diligent work and the earnest prayers of our citizens were rewarded. It was a community effort. Since it was the only church in the area, it was attended and supported by citizens of many denominations. The first Sunday School superintendent was Calvin Hosmer, a Baptist . . . as was Alonzo Evans of the prudential committee. Dr. Wakefield, an Episcopalian, presented the bell for the steeple. The town clock was later given by Mrs. Robert M. Barnard in memory of her husband, a Universalist. It appears that the ecumenical spirit, supposedly a present day development, was actually a cornerstone of Everett's first church.

In 1859 a division of opinion in a matter of policy resulted in a group of 16 members withdrawing to form a Chapel Church on Cottage Street. This group continued for about two years with Rev. Mr. Angier as pastoral supply. However, continuing efforts on the part of some concerned members, pastors and the Church Council resulted in the resolving of differences and a reunion of Winthrop and Chapel Churches in 1861 as South Malden (later Everett) Congregational Church. The reunion was effected, it is recorded, "in a spirit of Christian love and forbearance. . . in the interests of Christs' Church and for the moral, social and civil welfare of the community".

In spite of its own early struggles, the church has been ever mindful of its responsibility to the community at large. In addition to serving as a house of worship, First Church has played its part through the years as a meeting place, lyceum and lecture hall for the community. Many of the prominent New England clergy and outstanding orators have spoken from its pulpit. Anti-slavery speeches have resounded through the Vestry during the Civil War era. A memorial service for President Lincoln was held here following his assassination. For the first year after Everett's incorporation as a town in 1870, all town meetings were held in the Vestry of the Church. At the time of the great Chelsea fire, the same Vestry served as a hospital for injured and homeless victims. Throughout the years the Vestry has continued to be used for many church and community activities . . . dramatics and musicals, banquets and bazaars, club and youth programs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. For the past two years the Oliver Room of the Vestry has provided day school activities for a group of our tiny citizens under the auspices of the Greater Boston Association for Retarded Children.

The Courtland Street Mission was originated in 1885 and was largely sustained by workers from this church until it resulted in the organization of the Courtland Street Congregational Church in 1891. In 1893 a group of our members demitted and joined together with a similar group from First Church of Malden in organizing the Mystic Side Congregational Church to meet the needs of our citizens in that section of the town. Mr. Frank E. Vaughan was a pioneer member of the City Missionary Society. The Tileston Street Mission was founded by Mrs. George A. Brown, mother of Judge Nelson P. Brown, and a member of First Church. In the face of tremendous odds she carried on there for many years with the assistance of Mrs. George F. Silsby, Mrs. L. M. Gates and others. This mission was taken over by our church in 1894, but was eventually discontinued due to changed conditions. The spiritual outreach of First Church has extended beyond local boundaries.

Miss Minnie Brown, daughter of a former pastor, went out as a foreign missionary to Turkey. Miss Lillian Norton, a teacher of music, eventually went to India as a missionary in the Calcutta area where she remained for a number of years, finally returning to California. The Rev. Edward Payson Holten was ordained in this church on the afternoon of May 14, 1891. He was installed as a missionary at an evening service that same day and then left for India under the auspices of the American Board, serving there for 33 years. Miss Isabelle Marshall was married to the Rev. Edwin Carey Davis on September 8, 1895 in a ceremony performed by the Rev. Arthur B. Patten. In 1902, they sailed for India under the United Missionary Society of the Disciples of Christ, of which Rev. Davis was a member. They worked in Central India until 1935. On June 15, 1947 the Rev. and Mrs. Maxwell Welch were commissioned as First Church missionaries in an afternoon service, and later left for Angola Mission in Portuguese West Africa.

In 1892 the church building was remodeled and enlarged to seat 600. The choir and organ were moved to an extended section behind the pulpit. The balcony was enlarged and the present oak furnishings installed. A rededication service was held on Christmas Day, just 40 years after the original dedication. That same month Everett became incorporated as a city and on January 2, 1893 Alonzo H. Evans, a member of the church, was elected Everett's first mayor.

Again in 1954 the church embarked upon a five-year improvement campaign during which large-scale structural improvements and renovations were made in both church and parsonage. The Vestry area was remodeled giving us a new church parlor, church office and more up-to-date kitchen facilities.

The ecumenical spirit which prevailed at the founding of Everett's first church has continued through the years in many forms. We have welcomed to our pulpit clergy of all denominations. Locally, our varying congregations have enjoyed most cordial relations . . . and particularly through our young people's groups and our women's church societies. Many of us can recall an era during which our ministers would "pull a switch" on us without warning, and we would arrive at church on Sunday morning to find a neighboring pastor in the pulpit! Nationally, in 1929 we joined with our sister churches in the fellowship of Congregational-Christian Churches. Again, in 1961, after much thoughtful deliberation, we joined in the merger with Evangelical and Reformed Churches which resulted in the organization of the United Church

of Christ. The first ecumenical wedding in our church took place on December 7, 1968 when Donna Jean Melvin married Stephen W. Blake in a ceremony performed by the Rev. Robert L. Stiles and Father Michael J. Higgins.

Since 1848 twenty-six pastors have served this church in its ministry to the spiritual and social needs of four generations of Everett citizens. The longest pastorate was that of the Rev. Hugh MacCallum who served for eighteen years (1920-1938). In his honor, the church Vestry has been named MacCallum Hall. Our present pastor is the Rev. Robert L. Stiles who also serves as pastor of First United Presbyterian Church. These two churches, together with First United Methodist Church, are currently engaged in our newest ecumenical effort on a local level . . . The Everett Cooperative Parish. At this point in 1973 the three congregations have already voted on a union of their Churches.

Many historic milestones have been celebrated throughout the years, including the week-long, city-wide 100th anniversary observance in 1948. All have been the scene of happy reunions of ministers and members from near and far. All have recalled happy memories of the past and voiced bright hopes for the future. At the 50th anniversary Rev. William Sweet observed: "Ministers and members have come and gone; people have come onto our stage of existence and have passed away; voices have spoken and then become silent. But the same old bell has called forth our church congregations to unbroken worship." And now it calls us back to the observance of our 125th anniversary, First Church still stands upon the same foundation. Its spire still points upward towards the source of our faith.

"The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

(Psalm 126: 3)

Elisabeth R. McCulloch
Historian

CHURCH OFFICERS FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

<i>Clerk</i>	Miss A. Paulene Van Amburg
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	Mrs. John E. Fannon
<i>Moderator</i>	Mr. Leonard Bishop
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. Stephen Mercer
<i>Treasurer of Benevolence</i>	Mrs. Bruce Baker
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Mr. Joseph Luciano
<i>Asst. Financial Secretary</i>	Mrs. Robert Somerville
<i>Auditor</i>	Mr. Robert A. Somerville
<i>Historian</i>	Miss Elizabeth McCulloch
<i>Laymen's Representative</i>	Mr. L. Gage Brown
<i>Chief Usher</i>	Mr. L. Gage Brown
<i>Chairman O.C.W.M. Committee</i>	Mrs. John E. Fannon
<i>Member at large of O.C.W.M.</i>	Miss Alice Livingston

Deacons

Mr. John Hollowell	Mr. James Blomley
Mr. Robert Flood	Mr. Francis Anderson
Mr. Thomas Greene	Mr. Arthur Fyler

Deaconesses

Mrs. John Hollowell	Miss Elizabeth McCulloch
Mrs. Robert Flood	Mrs. Ralph E. Nardone
Mrs. Bruce Baker	Mrs. Walter Currant

Trustees

Mr. Bruce Baker	Mr. Calvin Peters
Mrs. Leonard Bishop	Mrs. Elizabeth Somerville
Mr. John Fannon, <i>Chr.</i>	Mr. Robert Somerville

Religious Education

Miss Marie Vaughan
Mrs. Larry D. Martin
Mrs. Ralph Nardone

Music Committee

Mrs. John Cassidy
Mrs. John Fannon
Mrs. Robert Taylor

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Stephen Mercer, *Chr.*
Mrs. Bruce Baker
Mrs. Larry Martin
Mrs. Charles Trafton
Mrs. Louise Yates

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

&

LEADERS

Boy Scouts of America (Troop 6)	Ralph Nardone
Cub Pack No. 6	L. Gage Brown
Delta Alphas	Mrs. Eileen Hopkinson
Girl Scouts	Mrs. Bettina Blomley
Mac's	Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Deming
Sigma Sigma Gammas	Mrs. Alice Tarby
Women's Fellowship	Miss A. Paulene Van Amburg
Circlettes	Mrs. Bettina Blomley
Friendly Circle	Mrs. Marion Jones

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Flower	Mrs. Bruce Baker
Memorial	Mrs. Elizabeth Somerville
Servicemen's	Mrs. Florence Wilderman

CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent	Mrs. Jean Luciano
Secretary	Miss Louise Harlow
Youth	Rev. Forrest L. White

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

Mrs. Muriel Cameron	1923
Carroll Cate	1917
Miss Eleanor Chambers	1914
Miss Ida Chambers	1912
Mrs. Marion Chambers	1918
Mrs. Catherine Crosby	1920
Mrs. Evelyn DiMuzio	1920
Mrs. Elizabeth Holmes	1923
Edward E. Hunkins	1921
George S. Kenison	1920
Mrs. Marie Kenison	1915
Mrs. Sarah Libby	1922
Miss Alice J. Livingston	1923
Mrs. Dora B. Marshall	1915
Edgar Marshall	1908
Mrs. Isabel Marshall	1914
Mrs. Barbara McCulloch	1921
Miss Florence Squires	1921
Miss Marie Vaughan	1918
Mrs. Mary Wilson	1903

125th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

MAY 19, 1973

Menu

Chilled Melon Balls
Home Made Chicken Soup
Tossed Salad

Boneless Chicken Breast	Whipped Potatoes
Bread Stuffing	String Beans
Giblet Gravy	Cranberry Sauce
	Rolls & Butter
Apple Cobbler	Coffee

Program

5:30 P.M.	Informal Reception
6:30 P.M.	Banquet
<i>Toastmaster</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Invocation:</i>	Rev. Forest L. White
<i>Community Sing</i>	
<i>Greetings:</i>	Hon. George McCarthy, Mayor of Everett
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. L. Armstrong, Pastor Glendale & Courtland St. Congregational Churches
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. Gary Hauze, Pastor Mysticside Congregational Church
<i>Solo:</i>	Miss Marie Vaughan, Accompanist - Miss Marion Kennedy
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. Oliver Powell, Area Minister, M.B.A. Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ.
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. John J. Sheehan, Pastor Immaculate Conception Church, Everett
<i>Greetings:</i>	Mr. Joseph Kaplan, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Everett
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. Gordon L. Kenison, Former Pastor First Church
<i>Greetings:</i>	Rev. Robert A. Roberts, Former Pastor First Church
<i>Presentation:</i>	From the City of Everett, by Jeremiah A. Falvey, Jr. Everett City Councilman
	Receiving this presentation for First Church is Miss Elizabeth R. McCulloch, Church Historian

*Recognition of Church members of Fifty Years
or more:*

<i>Remarks:</i>	Rev. Robert L. Stiles
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mr. Sumner Gage Whittier
<i>Benediction:</i>	Rev. Robert L. Stiles
<i>Song Leader:</i>	William (Scotty) Mathewson
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hilda (Spicer) Fannon

BULLETIN
SUNDAY MAY 20, 1973
MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

Prelude: "First Movement from the Trumpet Concerto in E. Flat Major" Haydn

Introit: "How Beautiful Are The Feet" from the Messiah Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Rev. Forrest L. White

- * Minister: This is the generation of them that seek Him.
People: That seek thy face, O God of Jacob
Minister: Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be lifted up, ye everlasting door:
People: And the King of glory shall come in.
Minister: Who is the King of Glory
People: The Lord strong and Mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Minister: Lift up your heads, O ye gates: yes lift them up, ye everlasting doors.
People: And the King of Glory shall come in.
Minister: Who is this King of Glory?
People: The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Immortal Invisible"

No. 7

INVOCATION: Almighty God, our Father, we pray for thy Church, which is set to-day amid the perplexities of a changing order and face to face with a great new task. We remember with love the nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the tasks she set for growing strength, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted. When we compare her with all human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in contrition. O God, baptize her afresh in the life giving spirit of Jesus! Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord. Fill her with the prophet's scorn of tyranny, and with a Christlike tenderness for the heavyladen and downtrodden. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it. Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER: "And forgive us the wrong we have done as we forgive those who have wronged us."

HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Now Thank We All our God"

#29

ANTHEM: "Awake my Heart"

Marshall

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3: 1-6

GLORIA PATRI

RESPONSIVE READING:

Rev. Robert A. Roberts

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts:

MY SOUL LONGS, YES, EVEN FAINTS FOR THE COURTS OF THE LORD:

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

YES, THE SPARROW HATH FOUND HER A SPOUSE, AND THE SWALLOW A
NEST FOR HERSELF WHERE SHE MAY LAY HER YOUNG:

Even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT DWELL IN THY HOUSE: THEY WILL BE STILL
PRAISING THEE.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are the highways to
Zion.

WHO, PASSING THROUGH THE VALLEY OF WEEPING, MAKE IT A PLACE OF
SPRING;

Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings.

THEY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: EVERY ONE OF THEM
APPEARETH BEFORE GOD IN ZION.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

I HAD RATHER BE A DOORKEEPER IN THE HOUSE OF MY GOD, THAN TO
DWELL IN THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS.

For the Lord is a sun and a shield:

THE LORD WILL GIVE GRACE AND GLORY:

No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.

O LORD OF HOSTS, BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTS IN THEE.

Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts:

THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF HIS GLORY.

The Lord is in his holy temple:

LET ALL THE EARTH KEEP SILENCE BEFORE HIM.

Thus saith the Lord, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:

O COME, LET US SING UNTO THE LORD: LET US COME BEFORE HIS
PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO
HIM WITH PSALMS.

Solo: "Spirit of God"

Hustad

Memorial Service

Presentation Memorial Flowers

Call to Prayer

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response

Rev. Robert L. Stiles
Scott Baker

Rev. Robert L. Stiles

Concerns of the week

Offertory Anthem: "Lo, A Voice to Heaven is Sounding" Bartneansky

Doxology

Offertory Prayer Rev. Robert A. Roberts

Hymn: Bless Be The Tie That Binds No. 272

Sermon: "This Holy Ground" Rev. Oliver Powell

Hymn: Rejoice O People No. 304

Benediction

Postlude: "First Movement from the Concerto for Trumpet
in B Flat Major" Mozart

Congregation will please stand

* Used at our Hundredth Anniversary service

Soloist: Miss Cheryl Hatch Trumpeter: Mr. Andy Shannon

Ushers

Mr. L Gage Brown

Mr. Bruce Baker

Mr. William Trescott Bradford, Jr.

Mr. John Fannon

Mr. Thomas Greene

Richard Somerville

Robert Somerville

Greeters in the NARTHEX this morning are

Mrs. Violet Fullum

Mrs. Margaret Morrison

Master Scott Baker will place memorial flowers on the communion table for members who worked in the upbuilding of the church.

The memorial flowers are given in memory of Capt. and Mrs. Clifford E. Van Amburg by their son and daughter.

We welcome members of the Mysticside, Glendale and Courtland St. Congregational Churches.

Participating in the service are the Rev. Robert A. Roberts, former pastor of First Church, The Rev. Forrest L. White, Everett Cooperative parish and First Methodist Church, The Rev. Robert L. Stiles, First Congregational First Presbyterian and Everett Cooperative Parish, and our speaker the Rev. Oliver Powell, Area minister of the Metropolitan Boston Association United Church of Christ.

We heartily welcome all our guests.

Following the service, there will be a coffee hour, served in MacCallum Hall.

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy a visit with your friends. The Circlettes have our sincere thanks for being our hostesses to-day.

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Mr. Kenneth Thompson
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Miss Cindy Tumility
Mrs. Vivian Tumility
Miss A. Paulene Van Amburg
Miss Marie Vaughan
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilderman
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Willson
Miss Janet Yates
Mrs. Louise Yates

Our grateful thanks goes to "Joe Carr"
of the Sweeney Funeral Home
who kindly came to our rescue and donated
the song books we used this evening.

The Committee wishes to thank
every one for their help in making
this celebration a success.

Thanks to all our sponsors, and
especially thanks to the Advertisers
whose generosity made this book possible.

Show your thanks too, Patronize
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Hilda Spicer Fannon	<i>Secretary</i>
Thomas B. Greene	<i>Tickets</i>
Elizabeth R. McCulloch	<i>History</i>
Eleanor Mercer	<i>Treasurer</i>
A. Paulene Van Amburg	<i>Chairman</i>

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Muriel L. Cameron
Alice J. Livingston
Elizabeth R. McCulloch
Janet Yates — Guest Book

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Everett—Malden Chapter 777

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and
CONGRATULATIONS
GLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
125th ANNIVERSARY

COMPLIMENTS OF

FRIDAY CLUB OF EVERETT

CONGRATULATIONS

**The Rev. and Mrs.
Robert L. Stiles
and Family**

COMPLIMENTS

OF

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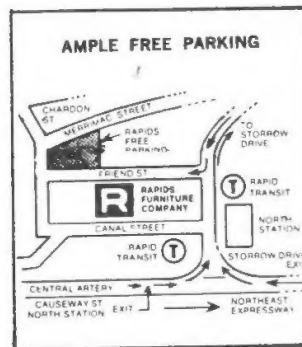
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